

CSFD *Fire Log*

City of College Station Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2003

New Newsletter - hot

Your news, read and share

This document was created with you the employee as the headliner. This quarterly publication will feature past, current, and future news. Take time to read the stories of human interest, flashbacks, and current activities around the stations. Highlights will include news from the city, the department, and any pertinent happenings surrounding our daily activities. Watch for the section on training opportunities. You are all welcome and encouraged to submit news information, author an article that would be of interest to your fellow workers, reminders of upcoming events, births, anniversaries, or death announcements. We hope to be able to offer this document through the Intranet to each of the stations in the near future.

HELPING HANDS

Tim Valdez was assigned to a medical team based in Hemphill, TX, which assisted with the Columbia Shuttle Disaster Recovery. Tim performed "in process" medical evaluations on all FEMA/USAR and other federal agents including the FBI, and NASA personnel.

MEMBERS OF COLLEGE STATION TEAM RESPOND TO AID NASA IN COLUMBIA DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORT

Six personnel belonging to the College Station Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) response team traveled to Lufkin/Hemphill/St. Augustine to provide support to NASA personnel during their debris and remains recovery efforts following the Shuttle Columbia disaster. Fire Department personnel involved were Chad Phillips and Bill Walton. Personnel were on the scene early February 7 and continued their assistance through late evening February 11. Participants were exposed to a wide variety of challenging situations and encountered an overwhelming debris and remains recovery effort. These team members felt gratified to be able to contribute a small part to the process of national grieving for, and recovery from, this horrific event. Ralph Staplin, CISM Team assistant, and the entire Fire Department send their heartfelt thanks to these two gentlemen for so well representing the City and the CSFD.

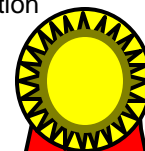
First Annual Employee Appreciation Banquet

Everyone enjoyed the sounds of the jazz band

College Station Hilton
February 21

You and your significant others enjoyed an evening of friendship, good food, awards, and great entertainment. A great big thank you goes out to the committee who spearheaded this event: Julie Caler, Ralph Staplin, and Cindy Giedraitis. Again, again, and again – Congratulations to the department's monthly, quarterly, and employee of the year award winners.

The hard work of each of our employees shines through each day. Your dedication and satisfaction of a job well done is recognized and appreciated. The administration thanks each of you for another great year, and bright days ahead.

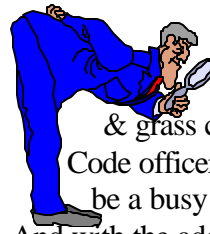


CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

Another Spring has sprung. Every Monday night from 6:30-9:30 pm for fourteen weeks you will see local citizens obtaining valuable information about the workings of the College Station Fire Department. Ms. Cindy Giedraitis, Public Information Officer, and many staff members will lead the classes in the tour of the facilities, fire department history, fire prevention and code enforcement, search and rescue demonstrations, and culminate with a live fire drill and graduation in May. Cindy is always looking for assistance with this well-received program. If you want to show off your talents get with Cindy. A brief overview of the schedule follows:

March 17	Station 4
March 24	Station 2
March 31	Brayton Fire Training School
April 7	Fire Administration
April 14	Station 2
April 21	Station 2
April 28	Emergency Operations Center
May 5	Fire Administration Bldg.
May 10	Brayton Fire Training School
May 12	Public Utilities
May 19	Utility Customer Service
June 2	Fire Administration Bldg.
TBA	Graduation

CODE ENFORCEMENT



With spring comes the rain.
With the rain comes the tall weeds
& grass. With the tall weeds
& grass comes the Code Enforcement Officer.

Code officers are gearing up for what looks to be a busy spring with all the recent rains. And with the adoption of the new Weed/Grass Ordinance we no longer have to send out certified letters if the weeds and grass are more than 12 inches.

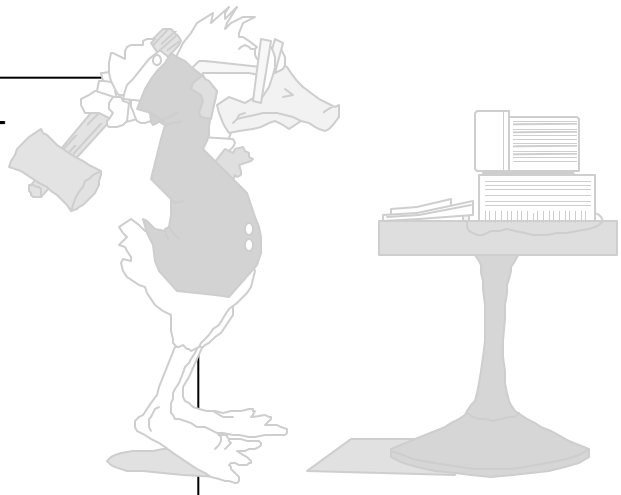
Cindy Dillard and Heather Cruce will be taking the Solid Waste Class C Course in April – good luck gals.

Code Enforcement officers initiated 721 inspections and closed 677 cases. Forty-two weedy lots and thirty-six junked vehicles have been cleaned up or removed from city property. These efforts make for a much cleaner city. Jon Mies and his officers are gearing up for a busy spring and summer.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Staplin Style

Critical Incident Stress Defined

Critical Incident Stress is the outcome of an event outside the range of usual human experience which has the potential to overcome a person's normal ability to cope. It may produce a negative psychological response in a person who was involved in or witnessed such an incident.



Do you know someone with a parking ticket – they better pay up – or they will be on Rod's top ten list:

You know you will get a ticket if:

10. You parked for 31 minutes in a 30-minute zone.
9. You went to Northgate.
8. You loaned your car, which went to Northgate.
7. You parked on the grass – again.
6. The “no parking” sign was at the front bumper.
5. You own a red car, they'll spot it every time.
4. You were the designated driver, and forgot where the car was.
3. You told the officer “Oh – was that a fire hydrant?”
2. Rod and his crew got up in a bad mood – of course they were only doing their jobs.
1. Multiple unpaid tickets – wait a year – you may get a discount, or a bigger bill.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CPR CLASS – MARCH 17-21 8 AM – 5 PM

PLACE: USC – GRAHAM RD.

LIEUTENANT'S EXAM – MARCH 20 9-10:30 AM

PLACE: FIRE ADMINISTRATION

INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING – MARCH 24

8 – 11 AM

PLACE: USC

EVOC TRAINING – APRIL 7 – 11 1 – 4 PM

PLACE: RIVERSIDE CAMPUS

ICS TABLETOP – MAY 6 – 8 8 AM TO 5 PM

Place: TBA

WMD EXERCISE – JUNE 10-12

CSFD SUMMERFEST "L U A U" 2003 – JULY 18

5-10 PM

PLACE: SOUTHWOOD PAVILION

IT'S A BOY – More pitter-patter and long nights around the Hamph household. Tim and Darla are the proud parents of Austin. Congratulations to Tim and Darla.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JANUARY, 2003

Bart Humphreys has been very instrumental in securing more than \$400,000 in various grant funding for the fire department, is heavily involved in the ongoing TEEX assessment, and represents the department on many committees. He also filled in at the EM Academy, MIS minutes notice, and gave a great PIO presentation.

Congratulations to Bart for being selected employee of the month for January.

All employees may nominate a fellow worker for this distinguished award on a monthly basis. The winners of the monthly nominations will qualify for the employee of the quarter. Watch for those extra special things going on around you and get your nominations in to Canaan Blake, Julie Caler, Ralph Staplin, Tim Valdez, or Mike Rusink.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

February 25, 1988 – Toned out at 00:03 hours to a portable toilet on fire at the Old Chemistry Building construction site (TAMU). Crew had trouble with the directions, which resulted in the toilet's total consumption before the unit's arrival.

From the First 25 Years.



LET'S CELEBRATE JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Clint Anderson	Ed Phillips
Chris Beasley	Petrice Pool
Canaan Blake	Paul Powell
Rod Cashaw	Pat Quinlan
Heather Cruce	Tom Reed
Eric Dotson	Mikel Reed
Jerry Duffey	George Rosier
Cindy Giedraitis	James Sears
Linda Giffen	Steve Smith
Ernie Goode	Andrew Throne
John Kimbrough	Joseph Valdez
Robert Mumford	Johnny Ward
Lance Norwood	Joe Don Warren

NEW EMPLOYEES ON BOARD

Roger Cueva – all the way from Corpus Christi, Texas – started on B Shift, Station One on February 24. Roger is single, but says he has lots of friends in Aggieland. He is looking forward to becoming one of the elite College Station firefighters. Please welcome Roger on board.

Donnie Ramirez – all the way from Bryan, Texas – ha – started on C Shift, Station One on March 3. Donnie is married and a former employee of College Station's Solid Waste Department. Please welcome Donnie on board.

We wish both of these gentlemen a bright future with the best fire department in Texas.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY, 2003

Thomas Goehl has been diligent in his efforts to get Telestaff up and running. He has taken the time to train all of his people and other shifts on how to effectively use the Telestaff software. Thomas's unselfish compassion also called him into duty to render aid to a man pulled over on the side of the road. Congratulations to Thomas for being selected employee of the month for February.

The Mission of the College Station Fire Department is to provide cost efficient, high-quality fire suppression and emergency medical services while providing non-emergency services, such as fire prevention, public education, and code enforcement activities.

WHO AM I.....



Watch for details coming soon on the 2003 Fire Department Picnic – more fun and games coming your way.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING UPDATE

Construction on the new Fire Administration, Municipal Court, and BVSWMA building on Krenek Tap Road is moving along nicely. This new structure, adjacent to the College Station Utilities Department, will house all of the Fire Administration operations in one location.

The contractors are busy completing the exterior structure, installing the drywall, and interior fixtures. The forecasted moving date is the middle of June.

STATION 1 UPDATE

The contractor appears to be done with the majority of the outside concrete work. The driveways are back in place. A crew is currently working on removing the east side bay wall. Cabinets have been reinstalled and the majority of the interior paint work is done.



All College Station Fire Department fire and emergency personnel were honored with a catered meal by the *Silver Wings* volunteer organization from the Texas A&M University campus on Monday, March 3. *Silver Wings* appreciates all the dedicated efforts of our force.

♥♥♥ Fire and Emergency Medical Services – over 1,000 service calls since January 1, 2003 ♥♥♥

FREQUENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: My neighbors leave their trashcan in the road every week after trash pick up. Who do I talk to?

A: Julie, Heather, Cindy or Emilo in Code Enforcement

Q: I would like new smoke alarms placed in my home or business. Who can do this for me?

A: Raymond, Jerry, or Steve in the Fire Marshall's office.

Q: I am having a garage sale and need to know where I can place my signs.

A: Code Enforcement officers have all the answers.

Q: My boots are worn through, I need new pants or uniform shirts. Who is the keeper?

A: See Bart Humphreys.

Q: I don't feel like coming in to work today. Think I will turn off the alarm and go back to sleep?

A: I don't think so – see the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Q: How much accrued leave do I have, my paycheck is incorrect, change of address or telephone number – who do I see?

A: See Shirley – she knows everything.

Q: When is my wedding anniversary?

A: Sometime between January 1 and December 31.